



DOC NewsLine

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2002/January 2003

“A New Year”

Words of Thanks

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., once said, “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy”. This statement appeared true for one family who attended the Angola Extension Campus of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS), commencement service at Louisiana State Penitentiary in May.

The parents of inmate David F. Crowell, Jr. penned a letter to Warden Burl Cain dated November 17, 2002, stating “We want to thank you for all that you have done for our son. His participation and graduation from the “Bible College” has provided him with a purpose in life that my wife and I thought would be impossible. We look at Angola with a whole new perspective. We have an understanding of what you have done at Angola. A trip through the museum would give anyone an appreciation of how far the prison has come.

We attended the graduation in May. It was the best graduation that we have ever attended. The involvement of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary was very impressive. We have a warm spot in our hearts for the faculty and administration of the college as well as your involvement in getting this program off the ground.

We feel that our son now has a real purpose with real rewards. It’s as though he has a job with unusual living arrangement and unusual working

conditions. We are thankful for everything you have done to bring about this end.

We have waited several months to write this letter because we wanted our emotions to be real. We were elated when we left graduation and are still elated now. Bless you for all that you have done.”

Michael Francke Award

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) recognized Secretary Richard L. Stalder as the outstanding correctional administrator in America by presenting him with the 2002 Michael Francke Award at its recent annual meeting in San Francisco.

The award was named in honor Michael Francke, who was a Judge and Director of Corrections in New Mexico and later the Director of Corrections in Oregon, during which time he also served on the Executive Committee for the ASCA.

Because Mr. Francke was a great contributor to the ASCA and the field of Corrections, the Executive Committee for ASCA created this award in his honor to recognize state correctional administrators who contribute to the field of corrections both in their state and nationally, and who personally take on many challenges to make improvements to the field.

In accepting the award, Secretary Stalder acknowledged the significant contributions made to the Department by all of its employees and the unfailing support of Governor Mike Foster.



And the Winners Are....

Secretary Richard L. Stalder writes, "It is with tremendous pride that I announce that the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections has three awardees in this year's class of twelve Charles E. Dunbar, Jr., Career Service Award Winners".

Please join the Department in extending congratulations to the following staff for their sustained exemplary career service:

Venetia Michael, Warden
David Wade Correctional Center

C. Martin Lensing, Warden
Elayn Hunt Correctional Center

Sheryl Ranatza, Deputy Warden
Louisiana State Penitentiary

Warden of the Year

The North American Association of Wardens and Superintendent (NAAWS) announced at their 2003 Winter Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, that Louisiana State Penitentiary Warden Burl Cain was selected for their annual "Warden of the Year" Award.

This honor reflects Warden Cain's commitment to professionalism in corrections and to achieving measurable positive outcomes in prison operations.

Please join Secretary Richard L. Stalder in congratulating Warden Cain for receiving this prestigious award.

Outstanding Young Man

Submitted by Debbie Simmons

The Office of Adult Services wants you to know about Brandt Murphy, a student worker in their office. Based on talent, character and attitude, Brandt was chosen, along with 135 young men, to serve as a member of the Madison Scouts, an educational performance-oriented, world class drum and bugle corps based in Madison, Wisconsin.

The Madison Scouts have a 65-year history of excellence and continues to be a prestigious member of Drum Corps International (DCI) attending the DCI World Championships in Orlando, Florida in August 2003.

About 1500 hours each year is spent rehearsing, touring and performing with the corps, which does not include Brandt individual practice. Brandt must commute to Madison, Wisconsin in the off-season and relocate to Madison during the summer performance season.

The organization is a non-profit corporation. Each member must pay dues that help defray operating expenses. In addition to dues, Brandt must also pay airfare, lodging and meals cost during this entire time frame. Brandt feels that the rewards of being a part of this group are worth the dedication required to be a member.

Adult Service is hoping that you will make a contribution to help Brandt in this effort. Your tax-deductible contribution to the Madison Scouts will help defray any expenses for Brandt. Check should be made payable directly to the Madison Scouts – noting your sponsorship of Brandt Murphy. Any donations can be sent to Debbie Simmons in the Office of Adult Services, Internal Affairs, 504 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802, or directly to the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps, Post Office Box 948, Madison, Wisconsin 53701.

Special Treats

Submitted by Patsy Austin

On December 16, 2002, the Lagniappe Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (LANIGP) hosted a Christmas Party for the children at Evangeline Head Start School.

A ventriloquist, Nelda Perry, Purchasing Agent from Southeastern Louisiana University who told the children the Christmas Story, entertained the children. Afterward, the children were treated to cookies and milk provided by Pitney Bowes, Inc. Then Santa appeared and after much anticipation, the children received gifts purchased by LANIGP via donations received from the members.



In addition to the donations from members for Christmas presents. Myra Stewart from the Department of National Resources solicited donations from employees of her agency and LANIGP was able to purchase a swing set for the school. The swing set was delivered and installed on January 14, 2003.



Employee's Recognition

Dixon Correctional Institute (DCI), Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC), and Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (JCCY), recognized the following employees for December Monthly Awards:

DCI

Master Sergeant Elizabeth Elam - Security Officer

EHCC

Melissa Scioneaux – Support

Lieutenant John Hebert - Supervisor

Master Sergeant Douglas Teer - Security Officer

JCCY

Robin Overhultz – Support

Captain Seletar Gosa – Supervisor

Sergeant Cary Browfield – Security Officer

Quarterly Recognition

Recipients of Forcht Wade Correctional Center (FWCC), Work Training Facility North (WTF/N) and Prison Enterprises Quarterly Employee Awards were:

FWCC

Matt Mobley – Support

Captain Joe Carter – Supervisor

Sergeant Carla Drain – Security Officer

WTFN

Jerry Lucas – Support

Rodney Slay – Supervisor

Sergeant Demetria Faircloth – Security Officer

Prison Enterprises

Kim Kimball – Support

Ashley Fontenot - Supervisor

46th Annual Meeting

You are invited to attend the 46th Annual Meeting of the Department of Corrections Credit Union at 11:00a.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2003 at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. Please see a Unit Representative for your tickets.

A Time of Giving

Submitted by Jean Wall

Christmas clearly is a time of giving. Several years ago, however, staff of the Secretary's Office decided there might be a more meaningful way of giving than exchanging gifts at the office. Maybe that money could be pooled and used to purchase food, clothes, toys and other items truly needed by families who did not have so much.

So, in keeping with recent tradition, the Secretary's Office "adopted" a family (two adults and three young children) from among the dozens being served by the emergency/transitional-housing program of the Volunteers of America (VOA) – Greater Baton Rouge.

The adults in the family had helped the children write letters to Santa. Those and a few suggestions from VOA staff provided the basis for holiday shopping and the excitement that always goes with a trip to buy "just the right thing" for a little boy or girl. The gifts were wrapped and delivered to the family the Monday before Christmas.



On December 17, 2002, the Community Outreach Enrichment Program for Youth sponsored a visit by four Jetson Correctional Center for Youth (JCCY) to the Community Care Center in Baker, Louisiana as part of their restorative justice initiative.

In addition, to visiting with the nursing home residents the youth distributed cards and gifts made by Jetson students. Keydra Cannon, JCCY Aftercare Coordinator, arranged the trip and accompanied the group. The nursing home residents were excited about the visit. Many of them do not have families who visit, so this was a special treat.

Restorative Justice at Work

Warden Lynn Cooper made a major commitment to Jetson Correctional Center for Youth's (JCCY) Restorative Justice Initiative by signing an agreement with Baker, Louisiana Mayor Leroy Davis and the owners of historic LeLand College to help maintain the property. LeLand College is located on 231 acres on Groom Road near JCCY. The college, which started in New Orleans, occupied the Baker site from 1923 to 1960.

In addition, to a planned museum on the property, developers plan to build housing, offer continuing education and healthcare and develop commercial properties. JCCY residents will give the property a facelift as part of the restorative justice initiative.

Warden Cooper also believes the work will afford JCCY youth participation and appreciation of a part of Louisiana history. The property will be destined for greatness.

Spreading the Cheer